

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-03

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /052 W

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R 271619Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4788

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 5765

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, EEC, NL

SUBJECT: GON MOVES AGAINST TRUCK DRIVERS BLOCKING
BORDER CROSSINGS

1. IN PROTEST AGAINST EC REGULATION REQUIRING
INSTALLATION OF "TACHOGRAPHS" IN HEAVY LORRIES AS OF
DEC 1, DUTCH TRUCK DRIVERS INITIATED UNOFFICIAL
ACTION NOV 25 AIMED AT BLOCKING ALL MAJOR DUTCH BORDER/
FERRY CROSSINGS. (TACHOGRAPH IS MECHANICAL DEVICE THAT
RECORDS DRIVING/REST PERIODS, AND SO CAN BE USED TO
MONITOR ADHERENCE TO EC REGULATIONS RESTRICTING DRIVERS
TO EIGHT HOURS WORK AND 450 KILOMETERS/DAY.
DRIVERS THUS STAND TO LOSE OVERTIME).

2. ESTIMATED 2,300 LORRIES INVOLVED IN ACTION AT
34 MAJOR CROSSINGS. ON NOV 27, ONLY A FEW MINOR
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CHECKPOINTS WHERE THERE ARE NO CUSTOMS FACILITIES

FOR LORRIES REMAINED OPEN FOR PRIVATE MOTORISTS, ALTHOUGH
PRIVATE AUTO TRAFFIC IN PRINCIPLE NOT TARGET OF STRIKERS.

3. AFTER FAILURE NOV 26 OF GON/EMPLOYER/UNION
NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT RESOLVING STRIKE, GON NOV 27 ORDERED
STATE POLICE ARMORED CARS TO INTERVENE BY "FREEZING"
LORRIES AT SEVERAL DUTCH-BELGIAN CROSSINGS, THUS
PREVENTING STRIKERS FROM MOVING TRUCKS TO BLOCK OTHER
CROSSINGS WHICH STILL OPEN. ACCORDING TO PRESS
ACCOUNTS, PM DEN UYL STATED IN FIRST (UPPER) CHAMBER
THAT GON WOULD NOT GIVE IN TO STRIKERS DEMANDS.

4. EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE NO IDEA OF PROBABLE DURATION
OF DRIVERS'S ACTION. ACTION IS DISRUPTING ROAD TRANSPORT
IN GENERAL (TRUCK FARMERS ALREADY COMPLAINING ABOUT
EFFECTS ON THEIR OPERATIONS); IF PROLONGED, IT COULD
SERIOUSLY AFFECT OPERATIONS OF US MILITARY SEA LIFT
COMMAND IN ROTTERDAM, WHICH PROCESSES ABOUT 3,000
CONTAINERS/MONTH, MOST OF WHICH OFFLOADED ROTTERDAM AND TRANSPORTED
BY ROAD TO US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS OUTSIDE
HOLLAND.
GOULD

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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